

SUISUN SLOUGH PIPELINE SPILL NEWS

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DIESEL OIL RELEASES INTO A TRIBUTARY OF SUISUN SLOUGH FROM UNDERGROUND PIPELINE

SUISUN CITY, Calif.-- The U.S. Coast Guard, California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), and Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P. (KMP) are responding to a release from KMP's 14-inch Concord to Sacramento, Calif., pipeline. An unknown amount of diesel (a refined petroleum product) was released into the Suisun Marsh about five miles south of Fairfield at about 7 pm on April 27, 2004. There is no danger to the public, the pipeline has been shutdown and the release has been isolated.

The KMP computerized control system detected an operational upset condition and immediately shut down the pipeline. Land crews and an aerial patrol were dispatched to find the location of the leak. When located, KMP immediately dispatched crews to begin containing and cleaning up the product and arranging for the repair of the pipeline. The U.S. Coast Guard, OSPR, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, also dispatched personnel to the scene. The responding agencies, along with KMP, set up an Incident Command Post near the spill site as a central hub for coordination of the response effort.

KMP, utilizing Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC), is responding to the spill. Shortly before nightfall, MSRC began deploying boom to contain the oil and laying down pads to absorb it. The Coast Guard's Pacific Strike Team, a specialized oil spill response unit is assisting in boom deployment. Tide control gates in the area were closed to mitigate the extent of the oil's impact. Preliminary indications are that product is contained within a diked area and has not reached Suisun Slough.

The U.S. Coast Guard, OSPR, Kinder Morgan and other state and local agencies continue to work together to mitigate the spill's impact and reduce environmental damage. Environmental assessments will be conducted today to determine mitigation strategies. The cause of the release is currently under investigation.

A telephone claims number has been established to deal with damage claims. (713) 369-8920.

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